



---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, May 7, 2007

***GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES METHAMPHETAMINE ACTION PLAN  
Addresses Law Enforcement, Prevention, Treatment***

TUCSON, Ariz. – Governor Napolitano today released *A Plan for Action: Addressing the Methamphetamine Crisis in Arizona*. The Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force, chaired by Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall, developed the plan, which includes 10 recommendations for specific action in the areas of law enforcement, prevention and treatment.

"Meth affects every part of every community – law enforcement, schools, health care providers and businesses," said Governor Napolitano. "To beat it, we have to approach it from every angle. This strategic action plan provides a framework for policy makers, substance abuse specialists, law enforcement and community members to work together to fight this destructive drug."

"There isn't one easy answer to the meth crisis in Arizona," stated LaWall. "More than anything, the Meth Task Force worked to provide comprehensive strategies that can be tailored to the individual needs of the varied communities in our state."

Action items include:

- Create a single point of contact for statewide planning and information exchange for meth prevention and treatment.
- Engage specialists who can focus on helping schools increase their prevention efforts.
- Expand treatment and make it accessible statewide.
- Reduce trafficking, particularly of the precursor chemicals used to make meth.

Governor Napolitano has been a long-time leader on this issue – she has been working on strategies to deal with meth since she took office in 2003.

Governor Napolitano recently sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff asking for special action to intervene in precursor chemical shipments that originate in China and move legally into Mexico where they are converted to meth.

The Governor's Office has funded 22 meth coalitions around the state representing each county as well as many of our tribal communities.

Her budget proposal calls for additional funding for meth-specific treatments for inmates.

Under the Governor's leadership, the state has applied for a \$7 million federal grant to expand treatment services and enhance drug courts statewide.

To develop the report, the Task Force conducted a comprehensive review of the meth problem in Arizona, surveyed gaps in programs and data, and hosted a summit to involve residents and

representatives from various sectors who are working to address meth abuse. Copies of the report and 10 priority recommendations are attached.

*A Plan for Action: Addressing the Methamphetamine Crisis in Arizona*

*Policy Recommendations for a Comprehensive Statewide Strategy to Combat Methamphetamine*